

“How to Stop Strife”
Nehemiah 5

What was Nehemiah's response?

1. He reacted
2. He reflected
3. He rebuked

Principles of strife:

1. There is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of our mission and how we treat one another.
2. Relational problems are inevitable and we can't ignore them.

Peacemaking is not:

1. Avoiding a problem
2. Appeasing another person
3. We must take the initiative to restore relationships whether we want to or not.
4. God's reputation is at stake when we have conflict.
5. Unresolved conflict:
 - A. Blocks my fellowship with God
 - B. Prevents answered prayers
 - C. Hinders my happiness

Practical steps to stop strife:

1. Make sure it's a legitimate issue.
2. Think before speaking

“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” James 1:19

3. Meet face to face

“Confrontation is caring enough about another person to get the conflict on the table and talk about it.”

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17

Ground rules for fighting fair:

- A. Never compare
- B. Never condemn
- C. Never command
- D. Never challenge
- E. Never descend
- F. Never contradict
- G. Never confuse

4. Seek reconciliation

“Do everything possible on your part, to live at peace with all men.” Romans 12:18